

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region

MINUTES OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Triennial Review Workshop
July 13, 2004
Regional Water Board
5550 Skylane Blvd., Ste. A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Staff present: Catherine Kuhlman, Ranjit Gill, Dave Hope, Lauren Clyde, and Jean Lockett.

Board Member Present: Richard Grundy.

Dave Hope opened the workshop at 3:08 p.m., by introducing the Regional Water Board staff and covering the logistics of the workshop.

Lauren Clyde stated that the purpose of the workshop was to receive comments and or suggestions from the public that would assist the Regional Water Board staff in developing an up to date Basin Plan. Ms. Clyde stated that the Federal Clean Water Act and the State Porter Cologne (Water Quality Control Act) require a review of the Basin Plans every three years in order to keep the Basin Plan up to date with changes in regulations, policies, new technologies, and physical changes in the region.

Ms. Clyde indicated that the Basin Plan provides the basic framework for all of the Regional Water Board's activities. Each Regional Water Board in the state has a basin plan that is specific to their region. She stated that the Basin Plan is set up with six sections:

- The Introduction Section which describes the Basin Plan process and contains facts about the Region;
- The Beneficial Water Use Section which contains descriptions and listings specific to each major waterbody;
- The Water Quality Objectives Section which is necessary to ensure the protection of beneficial water uses;
- The Implementation Plans Section which describes the measures, which include specific prohibitions, action plans and policies which have been specifically adopted into the Basin Plan to form the basis for the control of water quality (i.e. Policy on Disposal of Solid Wastes, Policy for Ag Wastewater Mgmt);
- The Statewide Plans and Policies Section which describes policies that apply to the waters of the region is included (i.e. Ocean Plan, Thermal Plan, Sources of Drinking Water); and

- The Surveillance and Monitoring Activities Section which includes descriptions of the various types of statewide and region-wide monitoring programs (such as - measurement of back-ground conditions, long-term trends and achievement with WQOs).

Following the public comment period, a second report will be released which will summarize and respond to the public comments. The input from the Board, public, staff & other agencies will be combined to develop a proposed Priority List of issues (or workplan) which will guide planning staff resources during the next three year period.

The written comment period for the Triennial Review will close on August 9th and a second Staff Report / Workplan will be released on August 19th. The Regional Water Board will then be asked to consider adoption of staff's proposed Priority List of Issues at a Public Hearing on October 6, 2004, in Santa Rosa.

Ms. Clyde gave a review of what the adopted Resolution would contain at the conclusion of the Regional Water Board's adoption:

- A priority list of issues to direct the planning efforts of Board staff during the three-year period from the end of 2004 through 2007.
- The Board has the option to adopt the list, or if they feel it is necessary to extend the public hearing for further consideration and adoption at a later date.
- A public hearing process- separate from the Triennial Review will be completed for each issue on the priority list.
- The Triennial Review record including the Adopted List / Workplan is then sent to the State Water Board for review for review (Board approval and review by OAL is NOT required as it is for Basin Plan Amendments) and the State Board then makes it avail to USEPA for final approval.

Brenda Adelman, with the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, stated that she agreed with the vast number of issues raised in the document. She stated that she plans on getting written comments into staff to further her comments. Ms. Adelman gave the following comments:

- It is important to have a clear definition of the term "secondary and tertiary treatment."
- Do the standards for Title 22 meet the standards for the aquatic life issue?
- There needs to be consideration for set back zones for irrigation and riparian habitat areas.
- Address minimum flow issues in the river before any discharges take place.
- One of the items that is a big concern is the issue of mixing zones and the point of compliance.
- Are holding ponds and storage ponds mixing zone areas? Look at the point of discharge versus the point of compliance, it seems, should be the same thing, but they are not.
- More information is needed about the role of storage ponds and what standards apply and why.
- Address the issue of SCWA maintenance activities as they relate to maintaining riparian habitat.
- Address recycled and potable water supply and the idea of "innovative conservation."

- Suggests that staff provide more information on the issues in the Staff Reports to give a little more detail.

Ernie Carpenter, with Sonoma Compost, referred to page 23 of the Staff Report that states there is a consideration to address compost operations in the Basin Plan. He stated that Sonoma Compost considers itself to be environmentally friendly. He requested to work with the Regional Water Board staff by reviewing the regulations before the end of the process and to have input in the development of regulations.

Dan Carlson, Capital Project Manager for the City of Santa Rosa, stated that the City of Santa Rosa will provide written comments prior to the closing date for public comments.

- Mr. Carlson stated agreement with the statement in the Staff Report regarding the City and Regional Water Board staff working toward an agreement to address Mixing Zones. The City also believes in developing Mixing Zone standards. They believe historic prohibitions were due to "Old Treatment" methods and plants.
- The City believes that the effort to evaluate numeric objectives for temperature and dissolved oxygen in the Russian River is a good one, but the Laguna De Santa Rosa needs separate standards.
- The City supports the efforts to review the seasonal waste prohibition in Section 4 of the Basin Plan.
- The City believes that there is a creditable legal argument that the Regional Board does not need to amend its Basin Plan to permit occasional indirect run-off.
- The term "good" needs to be clarified in groundwater standards for the Action Plan for the City of Santa Rosa.
- Regional Water Board staff should begin to address the indirect discharges from percolated ponds adjacent to the river and recognize that this type of discharge can provide a viable option to comply with water quality standards and water quality protection. Incidental runoff should be considered amending effluent limits to allow incidental runoff in water recycling projects.
- The City recommends that Water Board staff make reference to Title 22 rather than take direct language from Title 22 and insert it into the Basin Plan. Title 22 is updated more often than the Basin Plan and therefore the language can be in conflict or outdated in the Basin Plan.
- Update on nutrient objectives is needed.

The workshop concluded until the next scheduled Public Workshop on July 15, 2004, in Fortuna.

Jean Lockett, Secretary, recorded the minutes of the July 13, 2004, Triennial Review Public Workshop at the North Coast Water Quality Control Board.